EXCISE

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BELLAMY VERNELL P 06/03/82 121652 PRINTER: LI
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R 241242Z MAR 82
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CDC ATLANTA GA
CIA WASHDC
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CDRAARADCOM EDGEWOOD AR MD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Heaver DATE 8/31/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 18255
E.O. 12065: GDS 3/23/88 (DEAN, JOHN GUNTHER) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, PARM, SOPN, SREF, LA, TH, VM, UR, CB
SUBJ: HMONG YOUTH GIVES ACCOUNT OF CBW ATTACK ON
HIS VILLAGE

1. (C) SUMMARY: AN EIGHT-YEAR OLD HMONG REFUGEE WHO REACHED THAILAND FROM LAOS IN FEBRUARY 1981 PROVIDED A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF AN ALLEGED CBW ATTACK ON HIS VILLAGE IN MID-1981. THE AIR-DELIVERED "RED SMOKE" ATTACK PRODUCED SYMPTOMS

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AMONG VICTIMS THAT INCLUDED: BLOODY VOMITING AND DIARRHEA, ITCHING SKIN AND RHINORRHEA WITH BLOOD. SOME VILLAGERS DIED IN THE ATTACK AS DID ALL VILLAGE ANIMALS. THE BOY'S FATHER SAID THAT THE AGENT ALSO KILLED VILLAGE CROPS. WE HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO OTHER NEWLY ARRIVED HMONG AT BOTH NONG KHAI AND BAN VI NAY CAMPS, WHO CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN EYEWITNESSES TO 1981 AND 1982 CBW ATTACKS. [redacted] B1A5

END SUMMARY.

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2. (LOU) DURING A MARCH 21 VISIT TO BAN VI NAY, EMBOFF ENCOUNTERED AN EIGHT-YEAR OLD BOY WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED A CBW ATTACK IN LAOS IN MID-1981. INTERVIEW WITH THE YOUTH WAS CONDUCTED IN LAO AND HMONG WITH LAO-SPEAKING [redacted] B1A9
EMBOFF AND HMONG-SPEAKING [redacted]
TO ASSURE THAT THE BOY WAS NOT COACHED BY INTERPRETORS. THE BOY'S FATHER FURNISHED ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING THE INCIDENT SEPARATELY. THE BOY'S ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. (LOU) [redacted] AGE 8, CLAIMED THAT HIS B1A9
FAMILY HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO NUMEROUS CBW ATTACKS IN LAOS. THESE ATTACKS COMPRISED AIR-DELIVERED GREEN, YELLOW AND RED "SMOKE". OF THESE, HE SAID THE RED SMOKE WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS. HE DESCRIBED A RED SMOKE ATTACK WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1981 (SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOY'S FATHER SETS THE ATTACK AS JUNE-JULY 1981) AT BAN NAM BIA, A VILLAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 HMONG FAMILIES. CHAO FA (RESISTANCE) SOLDIERS LIVED IN THE VILLAGE WHICH WAS NOT UNDER THE

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CONTROL OF THE VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT (OR THE VIETNAMESE).

4. (LOU) ON THE DAY OF THE ATTACK, A BI-PLANE MADE A SINGLE PASS OVER THE VILLAGE SPRAY-DROPPING A "RED SMOKE" WHICH SPREAD QUICKLY. THE YOUTH SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE IN HIS VILLAGE DIED. SOURCE HIMSELF BECAME ILL, SUFFERING THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS: HE VOMITED BLOOD (BRIGHT RED) AND HAD DIARRHEA WITH SOME BLOOD (ALSO RED). HIS NOSE RAN WITH BLOOD-TINGED MUCOUS. SOURCE COUGHED (ONLY PHLEGM) AND HIS SKIN ITCHED. HE COMPLAINED THAT HIS EYES BECAME RED AND HE HAD DIFFICULTY FOCUSING THEM. THE CONDITION PERSISTED FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK, BUT SOURCE RECOVERED COMPLETELY IN ABOUT 10 DAYS FOLLOWING TREATMENT WITH OPIUM AND A WEED (WEED VARIETY FOUND NEAR CAMP BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT). SOURCE DESCRIBED THE DEATH OF TWO PLAYMATES, BEE YANG AND THAI YANG. HE SAID THAT BOTH SUFFERED SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO HIS, BUT THAT THEIR PARENTS DID NOT TREAT THEM WITH THE MEDICATION HE WAS GIVEN IN TIME ("CHI THANH"). THEY DIED IN ABOUT 10 DAYS FOLLOWING ONSET OF SYMPTOMS. HE SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS BEFORE DEATH THEY "WENT TO SLEEP" AND THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THEY DIED BLOOD FLOWED FROM THEIR NOSE AND THEIR BODIES BECAME SWOLLEN.

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(THE YOUTH'S FATHER SAID, IN ALL, ABOUT 16 PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK.)

5. (LOU) THE YOUTH SAID THAT ALL VILLAGE ANIMALS DIED. THE CHICKENS DIED FIRST, FOLLOWED BY PIGS. THE BOY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO DROPPED THE

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POISON ON THE VILLAGE OR WHY IT WAS DONE.
6. (LOU) [redacted] THE FATHER OF THE BOY, B1A9
SAID THE POISON ALSO KILLED VILLAGE CROPS,
CAUSING CORN AND TAPIOCA TO DRY AND DIE.
HOLES APPEARED IN THE LEAVES OF THE CROPS AND TREES
WHERE THE POISON FELL. RICE, WHICH WAS IMMATURE
AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK (NO GRAINS), ALSO
DRIED AND DIED. TREES LOST SOME OF THEIR LEAVES
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AFTER ABOUT TWO DAYS. THE FAMILY REACHED
THAILAND FEBRUARY 2 AFTER ABOUT ONE MONTH OF
WALKING. BAN NAM BIA IS LOCATED LESS THAN ONE
DAY'S WALK NORTH OF PHU BIA.
7. (C) NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES AT NONG KHAI AND
BAN VI NAY REPORT CBW ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR
VILLAGES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1982. SOME OF
THESE REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND
INITIALLY DEBRIEFED BY PHYSICIANS AT BAN VI NAY. B1A5
[redacted]

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